

REMARKS

Claims 10-23 and 25-27 are pending in this application.

Claims 10-23, 25, and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as obvious over Stadelmann US patent 6,415,156 in view of Chelliah et al. US patent 5,710,887 and Willner et al. US publication 2002/0065736, and claim 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as obvious over the same three references, further in view of Holmes et al. US patent 6,178,331.

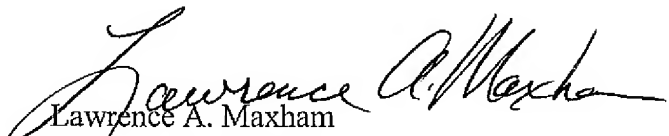
It is noted that Willner is necessary for all bases of rejection. The present application is based on a priority date in Germany of 28 September 1999, as properly stated and claimed in the original application papers (the Declaration). Willner stems from a provisional application dated 23 May 2000.

Thus, Willner is not a valid reference and must be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and a new non-final action are requested in view of the fact that the Willner publication, which was essential to the current rejections, is not a proper prior art reference.

Respectfully submitted,

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